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28 May 1946

From: Chief of Naval Intelligence

To: Bureau of Naval Personnel

Via: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Assignment of Personnel for Special Project - Request for.

Ref: (a) ALNAV 161-46, paragraph 6D.

Encl: (A) Organization and mission of special project "WDC".

(B) List of reserve officers to be retained on active duty until 1 July 1947.

1. A joint Army-Navy project organized in accordance with directives from the Chief of Naval Intelligence and the A.C. of S. G-2, U.S. Army, as a result of recommendations made by the Japanese Document Conference of 29 August 1945, was established as a special project known as the Washington Document Center. It is under the Chief of Naval Intelligence and is headed by a Captain, USN. Its organization and mission is given in enclosure (A).

2. In accordance with reference (a), it is requested that personnel be assigned to the Washington Document Center until 1 July 1947 as follows:

- 1 Captain, Officer-in-charge
- 1 Comdr., Administrative Officer
- 1 Comdr., Head of Information and Research Section
- 1 Lt. Comdr., Head of Translation Section
- 1 Lt. Comdr., Head of Editorial Unit
- 5 Lts., Lts.(jg), Ensigns, Translation Teams

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- 1 Chief Yeoman, Administrative Office
- 4 Yeomen, Typists, Classifiers
- 5 Seamen, Sorters, Messengers

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3. The anticipated sources of the personnel for this special project are 17 officers (including all senior ranks listed above) presently assigned and approximately 55 officers now under instruction at the Naval School of Oriental Languages all of whom have requested retention until 1 July 1947 and will be available for assignment to Washington Document Center upon closing of the school in July. Enclosure (B) is a list of reserve officers it is desired to retain on active duty until 1 July 1947 for this special project. Captain Ranson Fullinwider, USN, is the present officer-in-charge. Any enlisted personnel of the above listed ratings may be assigned as language qualifications are not required.

Dict. 27 May 1946  
Dict. G.B.Helmick  
Typed M.J.Ward

Thos. B. Inglis

ORGANIZATION AND MISSION OF THE SPECIAL PROJECT "WASHINGTON  
DOCUMENT CENTER"

WDC was organized to consolidate the Japanese document exploitation facilities of the Army and Navy into one organization. It is composed of the Army Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section, the Navy Translation Section and the former Washington Document Center, the entire organization coming under the Chief of Naval Intelligence as a section of the Foreign Branch.

The mission of WDC is to efficiently and systematically exploit the vast number of documents returned from Japan, primarily for their strategic intelligence value and also to make available to other government agencies material of value to them. Approximately 500,000 documents are now at or enroute to the WDC for processing and release of information obtained therefrom to authorized agencies.

The Army contingent contains personnel from the British Army, RAF, and Canadian Army. The Navy unit includes personnel from the British Navy. Personnel of all units currently totals 250, of which the U.S. Navy is furnishing 75. The entire group is a closely integrated organization.

The consolidation of the various groups into one efficient unit serves to make the best possible use of the personnel available avoiding duplication of effort and insuring proper dissemination of information from a central agency. It is estimated that the project will be completed by about 1 July 1947 if the personnel involved are retained at their present strength.

It is considered highly desirable that the Navy continue this project to a successful conclusion as the intelligence material to be derived is estimated to be considerable and of marked value, not from the standpoint of material on Japan but from information which Japan had collected on her neighbors. Secondly a vast wealth of information on the Far East will be made available to all interested government agencies.

ENCLOSURE (A) to Serial 9414P23.

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